



STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
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AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0001

Paul R. LePage
GOVERNOR

25 June 2013

The 126th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, ME

Dear Honorable Members of the 126th Legislature:

Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 1240, "An Act To Promote the Safe Use and Sale of Firearms."

This bill is well-meaning, trying to force individuals to check government databases prior to transferring a firearm. It includes not only sales, but also gifts from fathers to sons or between siblings after a parent passes away. Unfortunately, it does not focus on the real problems our society faces with gun violence.

Those who would commit terrible crimes with firearms are one of two things: mentally ill or criminal. No amount of laws will change that behavior. That is why I am so dedicated to addressing mental health problems in our state. It will take time, energy, and resources to help individuals and protect the public. It is also why I strongly believe that, once a crime is actually committed, there should be strong penalties and strong enforcement. This bill focuses on those who would choose to obey the law, and for that reason I believe it misses the target.

For these reasons, I return LD 1240 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage
Governor



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